



County of San Diego

FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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MINUTES

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMISSION THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2004

Commissioners Present: Mary Allison, Joe Gerry, Hadley Johnson, Mike Sholders, Kent Trimble and Kenneth Wood

Commissioners Absent: Harriet Acton

Staff Present: Cid Tesoro, Chandra Wallar, Jiljean Walther and Evaluz Zarnes

Guests: none

The regular meeting of the San Diego County Flood Control District Advisory Commission was called to order by Chairman Joe Gerry at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2003, at the Department of Public Works, County Operations Center, Building 2, Room 156.

1. Minutes of November 18, 2004 Meeting

ACTION: Commissioner Gerry moved to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2003; Commissioner Allison seconded; Motion carried 5-0.

2. Expenditure and Status Report

Cid Tesoro handed out District Expenditure Report¹. Mr. Tesoro stated that this report is reflective of this fiscal period 03/04 through November 30, 2003. Ed Taglioretti had captured as much information as he could for this status report. We are continuing to clean arundo and chaparrel in Lakeside.

Commissioner Sholders inquired as to why we are over budget on activity numbers FC4117 and FC4010t.

Ms. Wallar stated there was an error on the Report. The encumbrance was added to the expenditure instead of being subtracted from it. Therefore, they are both on budget. The report will be corrected and emailed to each of you.

Mr. Tesoro stated, regarding the Master Plan, that we are going through the Spring Valley and Ramona area, SDA one and eight. SDA five and six is Lakeside and should be finished by the end of this month. A presentation on SDA five and six can be done at the March meeting. We are going over the old Master Plans and updating those that need it. We need to revisit the master plan for Rancho Santa Fe area and the area around 4S Ranch. Rick Engineering is currently revising SDA one and eight. We will use their model for future Master Plans.

Ms. Wallar stated that we have spent \$4.5 million on erosion control. Currently we are paying out of General Fund. We are hoping that FEMA will reimburse us for the majority of it.

Commissioner Allison stated that if we get a strong rain, Wildcat Canyon will be in some trouble.

Mr. Tesoro stated that Wildcat Canyon is one of the areas that we are heavily investing erosion control in. We are looking at applying 200 acres of hydro mulch in Wildcat Canyon. We are also investing heavily in Harbison Canyon, San Diego Country Estates and El Monte road. We will start hydro mulching the Crest area next.

3. Projects' Presentation Matrix

Mr. Tesoro introduced Eva Luz Zarnes. She will be our new Flood Control Commission Secretary. The Commission thanked Jiljean for all of her good work.

Mr. Tesoro handed out "Current Flood Control Projects January 7, 2004". He stated that Brookside is a project that is yet to start, but, there are some concerns regarding funding. Casa De Oro is about sixty percent complete and will be completed this year. We had some rain delays. Central Avenue Drain will start this month. However, we initially wanted to place two bridges to address the flooding condition there. One of the property owners that owns the majority at the down stream bridge does not want the new bridge. Estella Drive is in construction. Hart Drive has been rescheduled. We have cleared the channel at Hillsdale Drive. Construction on Los Nopalitos is tentatively scheduled to start in three months. There is a good chance that we could receive a \$1 million grant to work on the Bron property. At this time we have not yet acquired the Sheperdson (Bron) property.

Commissioner Allison inquired as to whether we will be getting any road funds for the project because it goes under Woodside Avenue.

Mr. Tesoro stated that because we are currently in the preliminary engineering stage we have not set aside dollars from road funds but will look for them when the time comes. Regarding Ruxton road, it was placed it on the report only as a placeholder.

Chairman Gerry suggested we continue to monitor this report on a regular basis.

4. **FEMA Maps – County Counsel Input**

Mr. Tesoro stated that he had invited County Counsel to attend today's meeting, but unfortunately, they could not make it. An attempt was made to get something in writing from Tom Bosworth, but he did not respond in time. Tom advised that FEMA is the ultimate decision maker. So, the concern of liability to the County is lessened by that fact. Mr. Tesoro requested to extend this to the next meeting and allow County Counsel to speak on this topic.

Ms. Wallar stated that in discussions with FEMA, they were very clear that there are federal maps that can be relied upon and that they will accept liability for their contents. We need to also use our best judgment because the FEMA maps are at a gross level for the most part and don't have a great deal of detail.

Mr. Tesoro stated that he requested from FEMA the very latest maps that they have. We are waiting for them to be delivered. Also, they have agreed to redo some of the areas that have been affected by the fire. They have agreed to redo Harbison Canyon that is of great concern because of properties that are in the flood zone.

Chairman Gerry inquired as to whether the Commission should send a letter to FEMA.

Ms. Wallar stated that on January 21, 2004 she will be meeting with the mitigation people and discussing this very issue – how they can contribute to providing funds to keep these properties from rebuilding through purchase of those properties. One of the main items that they are looking at this year, which they haven't in past years, is that instead of paying each time we have a disaster it makes more sense to take measures to prevent a disaster from happening. So, their main focus, per Mike Brown, FEMA Director, is to focus on mitigation and prevent the cost from being so high.

Mr. Tesoro stated that in the Flood Control Ordinance there is a variance that FEMA recognizes, allowing people that were grandfathered in, to rebuild within the floodway. However, it was explained to FEMA that even with the variance, it will not be possible. Chairman Gerry inquired as to how many homes are in the floodway.

Mr. Tesoro stated that there are approximately twenty-four homes in the floodway throughout the County.

Commissioner Trimble asked if FEMA had any enforcement jurisdiction dealing with flood plains.

Ms. Wallar stated that they do not, except for the fact that they can pull flood insurance. They do not site individual property owners.

Commissioner Allison asked when the new maps would arrive.

Mr. Tesoro stated that Rick Engineering is a couple of months away from completing them.

Commissioner Allison stated that there is a consideration here; the GP2020 process. For instance, Lakeside had so many acres of industrial and so many acres of

commercial, which is not the case here. Because creeks and rivers run through these properties, she would like to have a set for Lakeside to know exactly where the flood plain is. You must discount the number of properties that are commercial and industrial.

Mr. Tesoro stated that FEMA will take care of Harbison Canyon. He also stated that he will invite County Counsel to our next meeting.

Chairman Gerry suggested that Rick Engineering come back in and share his progress with us.

5. Other Items

Commissioner Sholders stated that Planner/Engineer Bill Rick passed away on January 6, 2004. Commissioner Allison suggested sending a card on behalf of the Commission. A draft letter was prepared and emailed to Chairman Gerry. Ms. Waller recalled his being recently recognized by the ASCE.

Commissioner Allison shared with us that she will be married fifty years on January 23, 2004.

Commissioner Sholders discussed and read from the recent newspaper article featuring Rand Allan regarding the ALERT system.

Commissioner Sholders stated that it seems that each year we are behind the times. That we have not spent the monies that have been budgeted. He asked if we are improving our staff so that we can get these projects completed.

Mr. Tesoro stated that we have caught up considerably, that there are fewer projects remaining from our first list; hence, the importance of the matrix. Also, because of the budget issues, we have not brought on any more staff. We are looking to replace some staff that are retiring this year.

Commissioner Trimble suggested that a column showing who is currently working on the projects be added to the matrix.

Mr. Tesoro inquired as to whether the Commission would like to listen to a presentation on the pager system. We have found that in some areas, no matter the amount of erosion control used, we still have flows coming down the hillside. We piloted twenty-four pagers. Rand set up a triggering point connected to the rain gauges.

The Commission agreed that they would.

Chairman Gerry adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.

ATTEST:

CHANDRA WALLAR, Secretary
San Diego County Flood Control
District Advisory Commission

JOE GERRY, Chairman
San Diego County Flood Control
District Advisory Commission

Minutes prepared by Eva Luz Zarnes

1. Expenditure Report